

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 01382 151427Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 MC-02 EB-08 L-03 SS-15 INR-07
IGA-02 NEAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /052 W
-----151435Z 040138 /41
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C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 1382

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, KU
SUBJECT: TACOMA BOAT CO. AND KUWAIT NAVAL PATROL BOAT SALE

REF: (A) STAE 57045, (B) STATE 43662, (C) KUWAIT 1361

1. WEEKEND TELEPHONE CALL FROM TACOMA BOAT VP MARTIN KANE REQUESTED ME TO MAKE PERSONAL REPRESENTATION TO MINISTER OF DEFENSE ON BEHALF OF TACOMA BOAT PATROL BOAT BID. I REPLIED THAT, WHILE I WOULD MENTION SUPPORT FOR TACOMA BID IF I ENCOUNTERED MINISTER--AS I MIGHT IN COURSE OF ONE OF OF MANY SOCIAL AFFAIRS HERE--I DID NOT PLAN TO MAKE A SPECIAL DEMARCHE ON THIS MATTER UNLESS SO INSTRUCTED BY DEPT. I COMMENTED THAT, SINCE HE PARTICIPATED WITH CONG. DICKS IN MEETING WITH DEP. ASSIST. SEC. SOBER, HE WAS AWARE OF CURRENT ADMINISTRATION POSITION ON THIS PROPOSED SALE (REF. B). KANE ACKNOWLEDGED HIS AWARENESS OF THIS, BUT SAID HE WOULD CHECK INTO MATTER AGAIN.

2. NO SUCH OCCASION TO SEE MINISTER HAS ARISEN HERE, ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE OPPORTUNITY TOMORROW (MARCH 16). E/C SECTION CHIEF HAS SPOKEN TO NAVY COMMANDER'S ASSISTANT MARCH 14 IN PURSUIT OF HONEYWELL APPOINTMENT (REF. C), BUT ONLY DISCUSSED PATROL BOAT TENDER IN THIS CONNECTION.
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THIS SOURCE SAID THAT IT WAS NOT CERTAIN DECISION ON PATROL BOAT BIDS WOULD BE REACHED BY END OF MONTH. NAVAL TYPES WHO WOULD PARTICIPATE IN PREPARING FINAL RECOMMENDATION WILL BE OUT OF COUNTRY DURING NEXT TWO WEEKS IN ANY EVENT. ON SAME DAY, CHIEF USLOK, WHO HAS NOT BEEN INVOLVED DIRECTLY BECAUSE PATROL BOAT SALE WOULD BE COMMERCIAL, NOT FMS, MET WITH NAVY COMMANDER AL-MAIL ON ANOTHER MATTER AND

HEARD FROM HIM IN PASSING THAT PATROL BOAT CHOICE WAS DOWN TO TWO BIDS, AMERICAN AND FRENCH. OTHER MATTER HE DISCUSSED WITH AL-MAIL WAS POSSIBLE KUWAIT NAVY INTEREST IN OBTAINING EMERLEC (EMERSON ELECTRIC) 30 MM/ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN TO MOUNT ON THESE PATROL BOATS. (FYI: MOD APPARENTLY ALSO CONSIDERING POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF EMERLEC SYSTEM FOR STATIONARY ANTI-AIRCRAFT INSTALLATIONS, END FYI). OTHER SYSTEM UNDER CONSIDERATION BY KUWAIT NAVY IS 40 MM BOFORS. PAKISTANI NAVAL ADVISOR WAS PRESENT DURING THIS CONVERSATION AND EXPRESSED STRONG PREFERENCE FOR BOFORS. CHIEF USLOK HAD ALSO GATHERED IMPRESSION ELSEWHERE IN ARMED FORCES HQ. THAT PAKISTANI NAVAL ADVISORS WERE PUSHING VERY HARD FOR SELECTION OF FRENCH BOAT.

3. COMMENT: MY POSITION HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY FOUR-SQUARE IN SUPPORT OF THE SALE OF AMERICAN PRODUCTS. OBVIOUSLY, THIS POSITION WILL HAVE TO BE LIMITED WITH RESPECT TO ARMS SALES BY ANY CONSTRAINTS IMPOSED BY ADMINISTRATION'S NEW ARMS SALES POLICY. I AM CERTAIN THAT THOUGH STUDY OF ALL ANGLES IS BEING MADE IN CONNECTION WITH DEVELOPMENT OF THIS NEW POLICY. THIS PARTICULAR CASE POSES TWO SERIOUS QUESTIONS IN THAT CONNECTION. THE FIRST RELATES TO THE FACT THAT THE 1972 DOD SURVEY OF KUWAIT DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS DID NOT SPECIFICALLY RECOMMEND THE PURCHASE OF PATROL BOATS OF THIS TYPE. THE SECOND RELATES TO THE GOK DECISION TO PURCHASE THEM ANYWAY. THERE IS NOT EVIDENCE THAT OUR COMPETITOR IN THIS INSTANCE, THE FRENCH, WILL SHOW ANY RESTRAINT ON THE BASIS OF ANY PERCEIVED GOK DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS. THUS, THE FACT STANDS
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THAT GOK WILL PURCHASE 10 PATROL BOATS, WHETHER US BELIEVES IT NEEDS THEM OR NOT. GIVEN THE APPARENT SUPPORT FOR THE FRENCH BID--AND ALSO FOR THE BOFORS ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPON--BY KUWAIT'S PAKISTANI NAVAL ADVISORS, THERE IS A STRONG LIKELIHOOD THAT THEIR VIEW WILL PREVAIL UNLESS WE WEIGH IN HEAVILY IN SUPPORT OF TACOMA'S BID. WE COULD ALSO HOLD UP THE CARROT OF SOME NAVAL TRAINING IN THE US. ON THE OTHER HAND, I AM LOATH TO COMMIT MYSELF, EVEN IN CASUAL CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE, IN SUPPORT OF SALE OF PATROL BOATS FOR WHICH REF. B INDICATES DEPT. IS NOT EVEN CERTAIN MUNITIONS CONTROL LICENSE WILL BE ISSUED. I REALIZE THAT US ARMS SALES POLICY IS IN STATE OF TRANSITION BECAUSE OF REVIEW, BUT AT THIS END WE NEED GUIDANCE OF A CLEARER NATURE, EITHER POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE, THAN WE HAVE NOW TO ACT ON CURRENT MATTERS.
MAESTRONE

NOTE BY OC/T: REFTTEL A BELIEVED TO BE INCORRECT.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 15-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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